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# Renewable Energy Update

an Allen Matkins  
market intelligence  
publication

**Allen Matkins**  
attorneys at law

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## [Rooftop solar installations growing faster than utility-scale solar](#)

*Cleantechnica - Jan 10*

The growth in solar power has been fast among homeowners, and even faster among commercial building owners. The faster adoption of commercial solar is due to the lower prices for larger scale installs (more than 500 KW cost 17% less per watt than the under 10 KW systems typically installed on homes) and the wider availability of Power Purchase agreements, which are usually only available to businesses. Commercial installations grew from 19% in 2005 to 46% of all installations in 2008. As the percentage of non-utility solar being added to the grid increases, some states, like California, are looking at raising the state imposed limit. Californian non-utility solar is now close to the current 2.5% of the state's electricity coming from rooftops. The Solar Alliance has sponsored a bill to allow up to 10% of the state's electricity to be generated by private homeowners and businesses.

## [Renewable Energy Focus](#)

### [California's utilities won't be able to meet 2010 state RPS: researchers](#)

*Earth2Tech - Jan 13*

According to a report from researchers at [Black & Veatch](#), California utilities won't be able to meet the state renewable portfolio standard, or RPS, which demands that 20% of their electricity comes from clean power by 2010 -- at least in terms of actual electrons delivered. Over the past several years the state utilities, like PG&E, Southern California Edison and San Diego Gas & Electric have been rushing to sign up various contracts with clean power providers in an attempt to reach the 2010 target.

### [Geothermal industry has high hopes](#)

*Wall Street Journal - Jan 14*

The geothermal industry is adding 144 power plants in 14 states, says the Geothermal Energy Association -- up from 121 projects on the books last March and a 73% increase from the 83 projects underway two years ago. The federal stimulus is channelling \$400 million to the geothermal industry in the form of tax incentives and cash grants. New technologies make development possible in more places, putting states such as Texas, Mississippi, and Louisiana on the map in addition to traditional geothermal heartlands such as California. The U.S. Geological Survey notes about 6,000 megawatts of discovered geothermal supplies, with undiscovered potential between 8,000 and 73,000 megawatts. New technology could -- theoretically -- open the door to a whopping 800,000 megawatts.

### [Wind turbines leave some Bay Area neighbors in a huff](#)

*Wall Street Journal - Jan 14*

Bay Area residents may have to get used to more wind turbines in their neighborhoods. In their zeal to go green, a few dozen locals have added wind turbines to their homes, part of the 400 or so small windmills that have been put up in homes across California, according to industry and local government estimates. Officials say those numbers are likely to climb into the thousands across the Golden State in the next few years. Fueling the expected upsurge are the rising costs of traditional power, combined with rebates and tax incentives for homeowners to use wind turbines as cities across the Bay Area seek to meet targets for the use of alternative

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#### Recent Events

Allen Matkins has attended numerous events addressing developments in the renewable energy field in 2009. [A summary can be found here.](#)

Allen Matkins hosted the successful panel discussion on

energy. But windmills can be controversial with those who live next door.

## [White House says stimulus created 51,700 clean energy jobs](#)

*USA Today - Jan 13*

The White House Council on Economic Advisers says stimulus funds have created 51,700 clean energy jobs nationwide. Most of the \$90 billion in the stimulus package for clean energy has yet to be spent, according to the second quarterly [report](#) to Congress on the Recovery Act's impact by the Council on Economic Advisers. It says another \$26 billion has been obligated but not yet doled out. The Recovery Act promotes renewable energy such as solar and wind, energy efficiency, grid modernization, high-speed rail, vehicles with advanced fuel technologies and green job training.

## [California wants EPA to slow down climate rules](#)

*Reuters - Jan 11*

California has urged U.S. environmental regulators to slow down implementation of rules on greenhouse gas emissions, saying they could hurt the state's plans to transform its energy system to run more on renewable energy like solar power. The Environmental Protection Agency proposed last year to require power plants and factories emitting more than 25,000 tons of greenhouse gases a year to obtain operating permits. The EPA has said the rules could take effect as soon as this spring. The California Energy Commission supports the rules, but urged EPA to phase them in slowly.

## [California panel considers money from climate rules](#)

*New York Times - Jan 12*

Offering an early glimpse of how California might manage a central element of its ambitious greenhouse-gas law, a state committee has recommended that residents receive cash or tax breaks resulting from auctions of emission allowances to industries and other polluters. Under the proposal, described by the committee as a "household friendly" approach, Californians would receive 75% of the proceeds from emissions auctions, either in tax decreases or checks sent directly to residents. The proposal was one of several released in a final report from the Economic and Allocation Advisory Committee.

## [Small businesses see devil in details of EPA greenhouse gas rule](#)

*Greenwire - Jan 11*

Advocates for small businesses are accusing U.S. EPA of failing to properly assess the effects that its proposed "tailoring" rule for greenhouse gases will have on smaller emission sources. The tailoring rule is aimed at shielding smaller sources from permitting requirements that could be triggered when EPA finalizes pending greenhouse gas limits for automobiles and the emissions become "subject to regulation" under the Clean Air Act. EPA says the proposal will allow the agency to zero in on the biggest polluters. But small-business advocates are blasting the agency for failing to adequately evaluate the economic effects that the tailoring rule and other pending greenhouse gas rules will have on small businesses.

## [Adobe installs windspires on its downtown headquarters](#)

*Mercury News - Jan 15*

Adobe has installed 20 wind turbines on the sixth-floor deck of its high-rise headquarters in downtown San Jose. City officials say Adobe is the first to install them on a building in downtown San Jose. Each turbine is 30 feet tall and 4 feet wide, with an open framework that rotates slowly on a vertical axis. Unlike traditional windmill designs, which have wide propeller blades, the manufacturer says the vertical turbines are designed to turn slowly and are unlikely to harm passing birds. The installation is expected to produce about 50,000 kilowatt hours of electricity a year -- enough to power five or

[Renewable Energy Project Finance](#). For a copy of the program materials, [click here](#).

### [Upcoming Events](#)

[AWEA Wind Project Profitability and Reliability Workshop](#)

San Diego, CA

**January 19 – 20, 2010**

[Clean-tech Investors Summit](#)

Palm Springs, CA

**January 20-21, 2010**

[2010 VerdeExchange Green Marketmakers Conference](#)

Los Angeles, CA

**January 24-25, 2010**

[Renewable Energy Technology Conference and Exhibition \(RETECH\)](#)

Washington, D.C.

**February 3-6, 2010**

[Renewable Energy World Conference & Expo POWER SHIFT](#)

Austin, TX

**February 23-25, 2010**

[AWEA Windpower 2010 Conference and Expo](#)

Dallas, TX

**May 23-26, 2010**

### [Recent Opportunities](#)

[\\*Extended RFP deadline\\*](#)

[Inland Empire Utility Agency's Request for Proposals for Wind Turbine Power Plant](#):

[Los Angeles Community Redevelopment Agency's Request for Proposals for Business Cleantech Incubator](#):

[California Public Utilities Commission's Grant Proposal Solicitation for Improved PV Production Technologies and Innovative Business Models](#)

[Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's Request for Qualifications for Renewable Energy Projects](#)

[San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Request for Qualifications for Design-Build Solar Photovoltaic Projects](#)

[City of Willows Opportunity](#)

six average homes.

## [\*\*L.A. DWP pitches solar farm plans to Owens Valley residents\*\*](#)

*L.A. Times - Jan 11*

The head of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power has told Owens Valley residents that the utility plans to explore the viability of installing massive solar arrays near Lone Pine that potentially could generate the equivalent of a million households' worth of power. The DWP is considering erecting a solar facility on Owens Lake, drained by the DWP nearly a century ago when it diverted its water supply to the Los Angeles Aqueduct, and also on DWP-owned land stretching from the lake bed north to the town of Independence. City utility officials hope that along with generating power for L.A., building a solar array on Owens Lake would reduce the fierce dust storms that rise from the 110-square-mile dry lake bed.

## [\*\*Schwarzenegger appoints two to California Energy Commission\*\*](#)

*EnergyCentral - Jan 13*

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger announced the appointment of Anthony Eggert and Robert Weisenmiller to the California Energy Commission and expressed his gratitude to Commissioner Art Rosenfeld for his dedicated service on his last day serving on the California Energy Commission. Eggert, 37, of Davis, has served as science and technology policy advisor to the chair of the California Air Resources Board since 2007. Weisenmiller, 61, of Berkeley, has been principal and co-founder of the energy consulting company MRW and Associates since 1986. Prior to that, he served as co-founder and executive vice-president of Independent Power Corporation from 1982 to 1986. Weisenmiller previously served the California Energy Commission as director of policy and program evaluation from 1980 to 1982, special projects officer from 1978 to 1980 and assistant to the commissioner from 1977 to 1978.

## [\*\*San Diego makes 6-fold hike in solar power fees\*\*](#)

*The Associated Press - Jan 11*

Critics say San Diego may have dimmed the enthusiasm for solar power by increasing fees 600%. The city has raised solar system inspection and plan approval fees to \$565 from \$93. Officials say that reflects the city's true costs. But solar advocates fear the higher fees will reduce demand for the green technology. A report by the group Environment California found San Diego had more than 2,200 rooftop solar systems -- more than any other city in California. The change makes San Diego the second most-expensive place in San Diego County to obtain a solar power permit, behind National City.

## [\*\*Environmentalists at odds: projects vs. preservation\*\*](#)

*New York Times - Jan 12*

Environmentalists are more openly at odds over two goals: the preservation of wide open spaces vs. the use of public lands for renewable energy projects. The boosters of renewable energy development won a victory last week when the Bureau of Land Management announced that 31 proposed projects have been put on the fast track for approval. But there are battlegrounds like the Mojave Desert in California, where several solar and wind farm proposals were stalled by legislation introduced by Senator Dianne Feinstein to protect a million acres that had earlier been set aside for preservation. The debate surrounds how the federal government can balance protection of natural resources with the Obama administration's goal of promoting renewable energy. [This article](#) presents the views of various stakeholders and analysts.

## [\*\*Prospects fading for U.S. climate legislation in 2010\*\*](#)

[\*\*New Submission Deadlines Released for the California Energy Commission Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program\*\*](#)

[\*\*Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Renewable Energy Supply Rolling Request for Proposals\*\*](#)

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*RenewableEnergyWorld - Jan 14*

Advocates are wondering if the U.S. will see any significant piece of clean energy legislation in 2010. With health care, the economy and the upcoming mid-term elections dominating the political agenda in Washington, most onlookers now believe that an energy bill will be broken up into smaller pieces in order to make progress on key issues this year. Because this is a Congressional election year, the make-up of the House and Senate may be different when the new session begins. That could mean that Democrats will have less power to pass a strong bill next year. And if members of Congress are worrying about getting re-elected, they may not give as much attention to climate and energy issues this year.

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#### **Notable Renewable Energy Projects and Deals**

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